

Boston, July 25, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

218 Your letter, in reply to the one I sent to you, ~~on Friday or Saturday~~ on Friday, is received. My answer to it shall be without delay.

In the first place, let me say, I marked my letter to you "private" on the envelope, simply to insure its ~~safe~~ opening and perusal by yourself; but not meaning that you should keep it from the eye of Stephen one moment, unless you preferred to do so. I will add, that I have no objection whatever to your letting ~~any~~ one read the letter - if you have none. Only I think the less publicity ^{unhappy} is desirable in regard to the present ^{misunderstanding}, ~~as you~~ desire the letter.

In the second place, let me say, I know not on what reasonable ground you have been ~~waiting~~, (as you declare,) ever since the N. E. C., to hear from me. If you had any thing to complain of, respecting my criticism upon your course, at that Convention, ~~why did you not have~~ the frankness and fidelity to let me know it, either by letter or word of mouth? and then you can justify your self in such a procedure, while putting your self into the sins of others, I do not understand. Why should I ^{have} written to you, with no impeachment or charge before me on your part? Unconscious of having done you any wrong, and ~~feeling justified by the circumstances in listening~~ ~~the whole~~ I did, it was not my duty to gather from the lips of others what you ^{then} had refrained from conveying to me, and take the initiative in this correspondence. Yet

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I have done so; ~~and~~, instead of my magnanimity being appreciated, you insist that you were a titled ^{visit} ~~to~~ her from me, & and hence your long silence! To me, this is a new view of obligations.

In the third place, let me say, the explanation you give why you left my house — ~~with such precipitancy~~ ^{hurriedly} is not satisfactory, because it was not then seven o'clock; because you heard my wife call me to speak to you, and, springing at the call, I was in a moment in the ~~stairs~~ ^{entry} to give you my hand as usual, but you had vanished; and because, however hurried you may have been, you were not so pressed for time that you could not stop ~~even to take leave of us~~ ^{to say good-bye — That} ~~you did not afterward make a visit to Mr. Phillips. What else ask~~ ^{I did I not tell Mrs. Garrison} ~~you~~ ^{such} hot thought "came, & you would regret ~~such~~ hot haste, and write me a letter, telling me in what manner, and to what extent, I had done you ~~feel~~ ^{feel} ~~conscious~~ ^{very} wrong? You ask — "Did I not tell Mrs. Garrison distinctly, that we were obliged to leave Boston at 8 o'clock, and that previous to that hour, we had got to breakfast, and to visit Alia's surgery, & that every moment must be saved?" My wife has no recollection of any interview ^{very} made to see Alia's surgery, but she remembers how Alia exclaimed, "My, mother!" in view of your sudden departure — and, as my breakfast was all ready, she wished you and Alia to partake of it, without any loss of time. It must have been a very "disagreeable dream," as you admit, under which you were laboring at the time.

In the fourth place, let me say, the readiness with which you came to the conclusion that I meant to charge you with ~~dishonesty~~^{a lack of integrity} — after such an unbroken friendship as ours had been for twenty-five years, — was and is to me inexplicable; and it is the saddest part of it all. You say — "The audience understood you to accuse me of big fraudulency, and of ~~having~~ obtaining money under false pretences." What right have you to say this? You were not present. If you had been, you would have heard — what the audience heard — from my lips when Mr. Bruléigh, ~~meant to know all probability of misapprehension,~~ said to me, "You did not mean to accuse Mrs. Foster ~~of~~ ~~fraud~~ ~~and~~ ~~fraud~~?" "Certainly not," I replied; while I still felt ~~regret~~ that your course had ^{as} been unavoidable, and highly inconsistent. To ~~your~~ ~~several~~ ~~criticism~~ upon my disclaimer of any design of inflicting "intentional dishonesty" to you, "Can a person be dishonest without intention of big so?" So, you still think I have been dishonest. But not intentionally so! — I can only ~~reply~~ ^{To this,} that such verbal criticism and forced construction seem to indicate a determination upon your part to place the ^{instruction} ~~entire~~ upon my language and motives. In such a state of mind, how can I hope to ~~scat~~ ^{the} ~~any~~ ^{the} ~~time~~ ^{time} from your cordless or friendly charity? ~~They~~ I have never ~~said~~ or doubted that you were justified in your own mind in getting money for me in the name of General ~~Bruléigh~~ Republicans, ^{officially} and as you did, and ~~thus~~ ^{officially} to ~~scat~~ ^{the} ~~most~~ ^{the} ~~dangerous~~ ^{dangerous} obstacle, ^{officially} ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~most~~ ^{the} ~~dangerous~~ ^{dangerous} ~~obstacle~~ in my path; yet I am persuaded such a procedure is utterly indefensible, and upon the face of it would be regarded "in ~~shape~~ ^{form} ~~before~~ any impartial view, as practically an ~~infraction~~ ^{unfair}

~~If I believe this~~ That was what I said; but I expressly acquitted you of any "intentional" wrong doing. Why persist in ignoring the fact that I did so? ~~Why~~ You say that "neutral friends" requested me privately in the ante-room to make "retraction," and I "declined doing so." Retraction ^{implies an admitted wrong} is ~~nothing~~, except ~~after~~ another. I had nothing to retract; but, in answer to Stephen, and to the inquiry of Mr. Burleigh, I explained what I meant, and disclaimed any design to stain your integrity. I do ~~do~~ ~~not~~ believe there was an unprincipled person in the audience who left the hall that evening, who understood me as attacking your character — not you! Hence,

In the fifth place, let me say, your assertion, "It therefore remains true that I stand before the public accused by you of fraud... This accusation is on the wings of the press, and is ready to meet me whenever I shall again attempt to serve the slave financially — that I am not a ~~man~~ ^{charitably} of integrity," is baseless, and the result, ~~of~~ I believe, of a morbid condition of the mind. So far as the public at large are concerned, they know nothing of the matter, as no reference was made to it in the published proceedings of the ~~last~~ Convention; and had it not been for Stephen dragging it before the meeting, and making a long, exaggerated, and ^{injudicious} and ^{uncharitable} speech upon it, ~~no~~ ~~one~~ ~~would~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~interested~~ in it. The whole affair would have dropped like ~~the~~ ~~last~~ ~~one~~ ~~of~~ ~~eight~~, ended with the Convention.

Finally, let me say, even if I
had so changed ^{my} spirit toward you,
and had assailed your integrity, (as you
are too willing to believe,) how does it follow,
if your zeal ^{is} ~~is~~ ⁱⁿ the A. S. cause ^{as} what
it once ^{were} ~~was~~ - if that cause is ^{the} paramount
in your heart ~~and~~ ^{affection} over all personal
feelings, - that you cannot go West,
as you contemplated, and seek ^{as respects} ~~permanency~~
and for the Western A. S. ^(so unlike your former self!) ~~Leaving~~? You
say, "Not only will the enemies, but the
friends of the cause will distrust me."

Will they? Have "tried your time." Will
they? Why do you thus ^{hastily} speak their dis-
connect, and sense of justice, and per-
sonal knowledge of your character?

How attribute what you please to me
of personal influence, no one man can
long mislead or deceive ~~him~~ ^{the true abolitionists}. Witness
"our organization!" Witness "Rogers and
Douglass!" Witness all who have gone
astray ^{and} ~~and~~ attempted to compromise the
cause to precipitate a proslavery church
or party! Your shrinking into nothing-
ness - your paucity of effort - is un-
worthy of your earlier days, and indi-
cates that you are ^{in spirit} ~~now~~ as you have
been, though bodily ^{in spirit} infinity, or some
mental hallucination! Be yourself, as
of old; shrug - "I am a soldier for the
cause, whatever may befall!" - or when my
life is held against me!

If, after all, you are disposed
to make this a public matter in the columns

of the Liberator, as your cause is placed.
Send me a letter, over your signature,
for publication, stating your ^{affectionate} ~~fear~~ or be-
lief that. ~~I~~ ^{since my} ~~one~~ may suppose that I
meant to impeach your honesty at the
Convention, notwithstanding my explanation
at that time, and ~~wait~~ ^{not} ~~me~~ to see
whether I fail to be sufficiently explicit
in reply to it. This you should have done
at the outset, if (as you say) it is a public
and not a "private" affair. My own in-
vention is, that a molehill has been magni-
fied to a mountainous size, and that a
true regard for the cause ~~that~~ ^{which} is so dear
to us will dictate the omission of all pub-
lic reference to it. If you think otherwise
I have suggested the method of disposing of
it, once for all, in the Liberator: Should you
prefer to have ^{the} letter ~~written~~ ⁱⁿ white ~~the~~ ^{letter} ~~will~~ ^{be} ~~all the time~~
~~but~~ ^{but} ~~deliberately~~ ^{done} ~~before~~ ^{the} ~~letter~~ ^{will} ~~be~~ ^{done} ~~the~~ ^{letter} ~~will~~ ^{be} ~~done~~
~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{letter} ~~will~~ ^{be} ~~done~~ ^{done} ~~the~~ ^{letter} ~~will~~ ^{be} ~~done~~
as "a precious friendship,"

Yours, to break every rule,

M. L. G.

I need not add, that we shall be glad
to see you all at our house at any time, and
that our latch-strings will always be out
to you and yours as hitherto. I especially
do we desire, with our pleasure and her
convenience, that Allia will make our
house her home, during her visits to the city